Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 08317 241906Z

67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /043 W
---------- 110081
R 241731Z OCT 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 8317

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, XT, EEC
SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: FRENCH CGT AND EC
RELATIONS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 08317 241906Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

1. SUMMARY. THE FRENCH CGT APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AN EXAMINATION OF ETUC RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARE THE LEADING AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 25 ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. THE AGENDA INCLUDES DISCUSSIONS ON INFLATION, ENERGY AND MULTINATIONAL COMPAINES. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO VOTE ON A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RECEIVED FROM THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL EDUCATION FEDERATION OF FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE QUESTION OF CGT ADMISSION TO THE ETUC HAS BEEN ACCORDED PRIORITY STATUS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 25 ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. RECENT MISSION LABOR ATTACHE DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LEADERS AND LABOR OBSERVERS HERE IN BRUSSELS SUGGEST THAT PROPONENTS OF CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC WILL SEEK TO AVOID A DIRECT VOTE ON THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME. CGT SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE ETUC BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF ETUC LEADERS FAVOR CGT ADMISSION, BUT DOUBT THAT THEY CAN MUSTER THE TWO THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED BY ETUC STATUTES. OUR SOURCES PREDICT THAT THE QUESTION WILL BE REFERRED BACK TO THE ETUC SECRETARIAT FOR FURTHER STUDY. VEVERTHELESS, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DIRECTIVE CALLING FOR THE INITIATION OF "TALKS" BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND CGT OFFICIALS IS NOT COMPLETELY RULED OUT. IF "TALKS" ARE INITIATED, EVENTUAL CGT ADMISSION WOULD SEEM ASSURED.

3. CGT INSISTENCE ON RETAINING ITS AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST WFTU AS A CONDITION OF AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR OBSTACLE IN ITS BID FOR MEMBERSHIP. CGT OPPONENTS PERSIST IN CITING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE ITALIAN CGIL, I.E. CGIL HAS ONLY ASSOCIATED STATUS WITH THE WFTU, IS LESS CONTRINAIRE IDEOLOGICALLY AND DOES NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM MOSCOW. NEVERTHELESS THEIR CASE FOR DENYING MEMBERSHIP TO THE CGT SEEMS TO BE BASED SOLELY ON THE NATURE OF THE CGT'S ORGANIZATIONAL TIES WITH THE WFTU. SHOULD THE WFTU AGREE TO MODIFY THE CGT'S STATUS, A LA CGIL, THE ONLY REAL BARRIER TO CGT ENTRY WOULD BE REMOVED. IT IS PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT THAT CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY IN HIS AUGUST 23 LETTER TO ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER REQUESTING AFFILIATION DID NOT ONCE REFER TO WFTU. THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE WAS SHOWN BUT WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE SEGUY LETTER WHICH ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS VIEW AS INDICATIVE OF A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE CGT'S APPROACH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

4. THE QUESTION OF ETUC RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE A MATTER OF SOME CONTROVERSY AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. SINCE THE ETUC'S INCEPTION TWO YEARS AGO, ITS RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN COMPLICATED BY INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND AGGRAVATED BY THE BRITISH TUC'S REFUSAL TO PARTICPATE IN COMMUINTY ISTITUTIONS. IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE EC COMMISSION AND EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAVE RARELY ENJOYED A CLEAR MANDATE FROM

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THEIR MEMBERSHIP. THEY CAN NOT SPEAK FOR THE WORKERS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IN FACT THE WORKERS GROUP IN THE TRIPARTITE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY HAS LOST VOTES BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF EIGHT TUC DELEGATES. ADDITIONALLY, SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ETUC ACTION WITHIN AN EC FRAMEWORK ARE SOMETIMES NEGATIVELY INFLUENCED BY ETUC LEADERS REPRESENTING TRADE UNIONS IN NON-EC MEMBER STATES. ANTI-MARKET BRITISH TUC OFFICIALS OCCASIONALLY FEED THESE INTERNAL DIVISIONS BY SIDING WITH NON-EC UNIONS, MAKING THE TASK OF FORMULATING ETUC POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNITY INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT.

5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOW MUST RESPOND TO AN EC COMMISSION INITIATIVE CALLING FOR A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL PARTNERS (TRADE UNION, EMPLOYER AND EC REPRESENTATIVES) ON NOVEMBER 5-6 TO DISCUSS WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY RASSCHAERT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE ETUC WILL BOYCOTT THE MEETING OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THE EC COMMISSION HAS FAILED TO ADEQUATELY CONSULT WITH THE ETUC SECRETARIAT IN THE GENERAL DEVELOP-MENT OF EC SOCIAL POLICY AND PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ON THE PLANS TO HOLD THE MEETING ON WORKING ENVIRONMENT. RASSCHAERT'S CRITICISM OF THE EC COMMISSION IS NOT COMPLETELY WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION, BUT SINCE THE COMMISSION SEEKS ETUC OPINIONS ON MOST ISSUES, IT IS MOST LIKELY PROMPTED BY RASSCHAERT'S FRUSTRATION WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE AND HIS NEED TO PLACATEANTI-EC FORCES WITHIN THE ETUC. EUROPEAN METAL WORKER FEDERATION LEADER GUNTER KOPKE HAS TOLD US THAT HIS ORGANI-ZATION AND SEVERAL ETUC AFFILIATED UNIONS WILL IGNORE RASSCHAERT AND ATTEND THE MEETING. RASSCHAERT HAS COUNTERED BY INSISTING THAT THE QUESTION OF ETUC ATTENDANCE BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THA
T
OVERALL ETUC-EC RELATIONS BE REVIEWED.

6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO DISCUSS CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDI-TIONS GIVING SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO INFLATION, ENERGY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 EC BRU 08317 241906Z

MNC'S AND SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GREATER CONTROL OF THEIR OPERATIONS IS HIGH ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO ONE SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL THE ETUC WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR INTER-NATIONAL CONTROLS OF MNC'S, BUT WILL BEGIN TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN CURBING MNC POWER.

7. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO EITHER REJECT OR POST-PONE DECISION ON A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FROM THE NATIONAL EDUCATION FEDERATION OF FRANCE. MANY ETUC LEADERS ARE OPPOSED TO OPENING MEMBERSHIP ROLLS TO INDEPENDENT UNIONS AND ARE PARTICULAR-LY CONCERNED ABOUT CREATING PRECEDENTS WHICH WOULD INVOIT APPLICA-TIONS FROM FRENCH CADRE UNIONS. GREENWALD

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MEMBERSHIP, LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU08317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740304-0674
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741021/aaaaarcv.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: FRENCH CGT AND EC RELATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, XT, EEC, WFTU, ETUC, CGT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005